



July 2004

FIELD DAY, AND THE COOKIN' EASY
THE JULY VOMARC MEETING WILL BE AT MCDOUGAL HALL,
SDC
THIS WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, AT 7:30 P.M.

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Thanks to all who helped out on the 4th of July parade. A special thanks to Dan, KG6 LJN, who got us all organized. The transition to the sheriff department went very smooth. There seemed to be more uniforms available than in the past.

A reminder that we are on tap to support the Liberty Ride on Aug. 8. If you haven't already done so, contact Ken, N6KM, if you would like to help out.

Attention all VE's. We are hosting a VE session on Aug 7. Please help out if you can.

Congratulations to Ken, N6KM, for placing first in the 2003 ARRL 10 meter contest, SF

section. Ken's has found a niche by operating CW, QRP.

Here are the scores.

- 1 N6KM 1,640 40 20 A A SF
- 2 K6MI 1,406 28 19 A A SJV
- 3 N5VWN 1,350 25 15 A A SJV
- 4 NZ6N 690 23 15 A A SV

I operate Phone and high power so its tougher to place. Here are scores for my category.

- 1 K6HNZ 218,762 1,233 89 B C SCV
- 2 KA6BIM 66,156 451 74 B C SJV
- 3 K6UUW 15,264 145 53 B C SF
- 4 K6YV 7,216 91 41 B C SJV

Contesting is a lot of fun. If you would like to join me or do it as a club, let me know before the next one. The next 10 meter contest is Dec. 11,12. Hopefully band conditions will allow some QSO's.

The latest amateur satellite to go up is ECHO. You might try listening to the telemetry signal. Here are the operating frequencies.

ECHO's Standard Operating Modes are:

Analog

* 435.225 MHz FM Voice

Downlink,

* 145.920 MHz FM Voice Uplink
+ 67 Hz PL tone

Digital - 9600 bps, AX.25,
PACSAT Protocol mailbox

* 435.150 MHz FM Downlink and
Telemetry in the digital stream

* 145.860 MHz FM Uplink

I don't think the bird is fully operational yet, but you should be able to hear the telemetry signal. There is software available at
<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/> to decode the telemetry signal.

A 9600 baud TNC is also required.

This month's meeting will be at McDougale Hall. The agenda will consist of two activities. The first will be a talk on the circuit design of our solar charger controller project. Thanks to Jan, AE6FQ, for bringing us Scott Bowman. The second part is possible thanks to Mike, WB6TMH. Mike will have all the parts and necessary tools to allow club members to build a better antenna for your handheld radio.

Thanks to all who check in on the Monday and Wednesday

nets. Ken, N6KN, has net control for Aug.

Keep that RF coming.
73, Jim

Minutes of June 16, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM.

There were no minutes as the secretary was absent from last month's meeting.

Treasurer's report: \$1745.72 in the bank as of May 31, 2004. There are a couple bills, but the financial picture is OK. Ken McTaggart, N6KM, treasurer, suggested a meeting of the officers in the fall to discuss finances and budgeting. Chief Guernsey offered the club the use of the postage machine at the police station for mailing the newsletter. If you would like the newsletter via E-mail instead of regular mail, please notify the editor. The newsletter is also posted on the VOMARC website.

Chief Guernsey will still be the chief under the new law enforcement arrangements through the sheriff's department. The Sonoma Police Department has invited all ACS members to visit on June 28, 2004 from 4:30 to 6pm. All those who wish to go please notify Eileen who will RSVP for the group.

The ARRL service club plaque for our club arrived.

ACS news: There will be a training session on August 29, 2004, in Santa Rosa. Mark your calendars now and try to attend. More information will be forthcoming later. This will be a formal training that will include lunch if you RSVP. If you come without RSVPing, you will be on your own for lunch. The county is going to a card lock system of pictures and ID's and pictures for the ID cards will be taken at the training session. If you are not there at that time, you will need to make an appointment to go to Santa Rosa to have your picture taken. This training will be followed by our local training and contact with local agencies.

Thanks to Jan for organizing the communications and participation by our group for the Hit the Road Jack Run and to Jim for his report. There was some confusion as to who the contact entity was. The consensus is that there needs to be a better indication that we are the communicators but the contact agency is the served agency--i.e.: the police department or Sheriff's dept., etc.

Next Monday is the third Monday of the month. This is the designated Monday for manning the EOC. We will make it a training session for message handling. For practice, there should be a "message" during each Monday night net.

There is no news on the solar panels.

The Eagle project is progressing nicely.

The Website is functioning well.

At some places on the Hit the Road Jack route, there were problems hitting the repeater. This led to discussion of a 19" fold up antenna instead of a rubber ducky for the HT's. It can be simply made with a 19" whip & connector and epoxy. Mike Miller had a fold up antenna he had made to demonstrate. It was decided to make the construction of 20 of these a club project for one meeting. The cost is less than \$3 each. The suggestions was made that the club will pay for the materials and members can make donations to the club.

There was a reminder that the club's antenna book can be borrowed. The CD included with the Antenna book is very helpful. Jim also has a VHF/UHF book that is available to ARRL members with their QST renewal.

The crank up tube tower (30 feet) is still for sale. Also, there was discussion of selling the club's Kenwood TS520 with power supply. It should be worth about \$200. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to sell the Kenwood TS 520. It will be listed on the net swap. Also, the 706 Kenwood is being liquidated by Kenwood distributors for about \$450 to make room for the new models.

Question was asked as to the whereabouts of the graduates from the ham class. Two passed the test at the Ham Fest. Others were unable to attend. The suggestion was made that there be a special Tuesday evening VE session to accommodate those that could not attend the VE session on a Saturday.

New Business:

Vomarc net control for July is Eileen.

Jim Hill had a special request. Henry Primsch needs help putting a beam on his tower. Dave and Jim will help him with that project.

Dan and Eileen are in charge of organizing everyone for communication and traffic control for the Fourth of July Parade. There is need for 7 - 8 volunteers. The parade starts at 10AM.

Jim & Eileen gave a presentation on ham radio to the Boys and Girls Club.

Organization and planning for field day was the next item of business. An equipment list was distributed. Field day is in the picnic area in Maxwell Park. Set up will start at 8AM. Anyone who has a laptop was requested to bring it to help with logging contacts. It is thought there is power for the laptops available. If there is not, an inverter and extra battery will be used. Dinner will be provided as

usual. Dinner will be about 7PM. Families are invited. The club will provide meat. Everyone attending is asked to bring salad, desert, etc. There will be breakfast on Sunday morning also.

Stan and Jim will give a presentation on software defined radios to a Marin Ham Club in August.

John Sharp is the club historian and requests all committee heads to give him a copy of all write-ups on club activities for the archives. Also, anyone having any historical data on the club is asked to donate it, or a copy, to John for the archives.

Field Day will be dedicated to Steve Todd, K2IYQ.

Jim Hill moved to have the club send a \$100 donation to hospice in Steve Todd's name. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan, W6WXU,
Secretary

FOR SALE

Your editor actually has a couple of things for sale this month.

I recently bought an ICOM 706 because its small size and detachable face make it perfect for use in my airplane. When I

flew back to Oshkosh two years ago, I used a Ten Tec 555 Scout, which was small enough to fit, but was awkward to use due to the limited space up front.

That's the long introduction to my sale items.

First, I have a Kenwood TS-430 all band HF transceiver that was previously owned by Jim Hill. It is working and comes with his home-brew power supply, a Kenwood hand microphone with up/down buttons, and power cables. I paid \$300 for it and then bought the microphone on Ebay to match. I would like to get my cost back, so am asking \$345.

The second radio is a Kenwood TS-440AT all band transceiver with built-in automatic antenna tuner, matching power supply and Kenwood hand microphone with up/down buttons. The rig is working, although I've seen posts on an Internet list saying that there is a service bulletin out because some of these radios have had minor problems with some component adhesive coming loose. The posts infer that the fix is simple, but I don't know if it has been done to this radio. I would like to get \$475 for this rig.

I also have two 100 watt low pass (0 to 30 MHz) filters, as well as my old Heathkit 2036A 2 meter transceiver. I am asking \$25 each for the filters and \$40 for the Heathkit. I haven't turned the 2036A on for a while, but I will warm it up before

selling just to make sure it still works.

I thought I would offer these to the club members before putting them on Ebay. I would love to see more VOMARC members upgrading to General class so they can use the low bands to talk around the world.

I'm leaving for Oshkosh July 21 so will miss the meeting, but you can give me a call after I get back around August 4 or 5.

73, Darrel, WD6BOR
996-4494

VOMARC FIELD DAY 2004



Steve, KD5FID, from over the hill there in Petaluma, took a couple of pictures at our Field Day event at Maxwell Park, June 26 and 27. You can tell by the serious expressions that these are a couple of serious contesters. Pictured are Joan, W6WXU, and Ashley, KG6LJP.

Steve also joined our operation and ran a VHF and 6 meter station, bagging yet more points for the club.

The VOMARC Field Day operation was a success by any standards. We had a nice picnic area with lovely oak shade trees and tables galore, and we were in a public area so were able to demonstrate amateur radio to several passers-by, whether they wanted to know more or not (we only had to tackle one rather elderly gentleman when he tried to get away, but fortunately he didn't press charges).

There were lots of trees from which to hang antennas, so we had the arrows flying soon after arriving. The tower trailer assembly is becoming a regular enough VOMARC activity that everyone helping made it an easy job indeed. We were able to try Sanford Smith's hex beam as well, so were able to compare their performance on several bands. Ken, N6KN, brought a Windom wire antenna, and the club's G5RV finished the array.

Conditions were good enough that our operators were able to make contacts throughout the 24-hour period, or at least as long as they could stay awake.

Finally, if you missed the weekend, you also missed a pretty good club meal, if I say so myself. CU at the next club event!



Now, tell me... doesn't this guy look like a real ham???

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 8 EDITION 7

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President

George Maurer, K6ITE- Vice-Pres

Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary

Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair

Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS

Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:
<http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

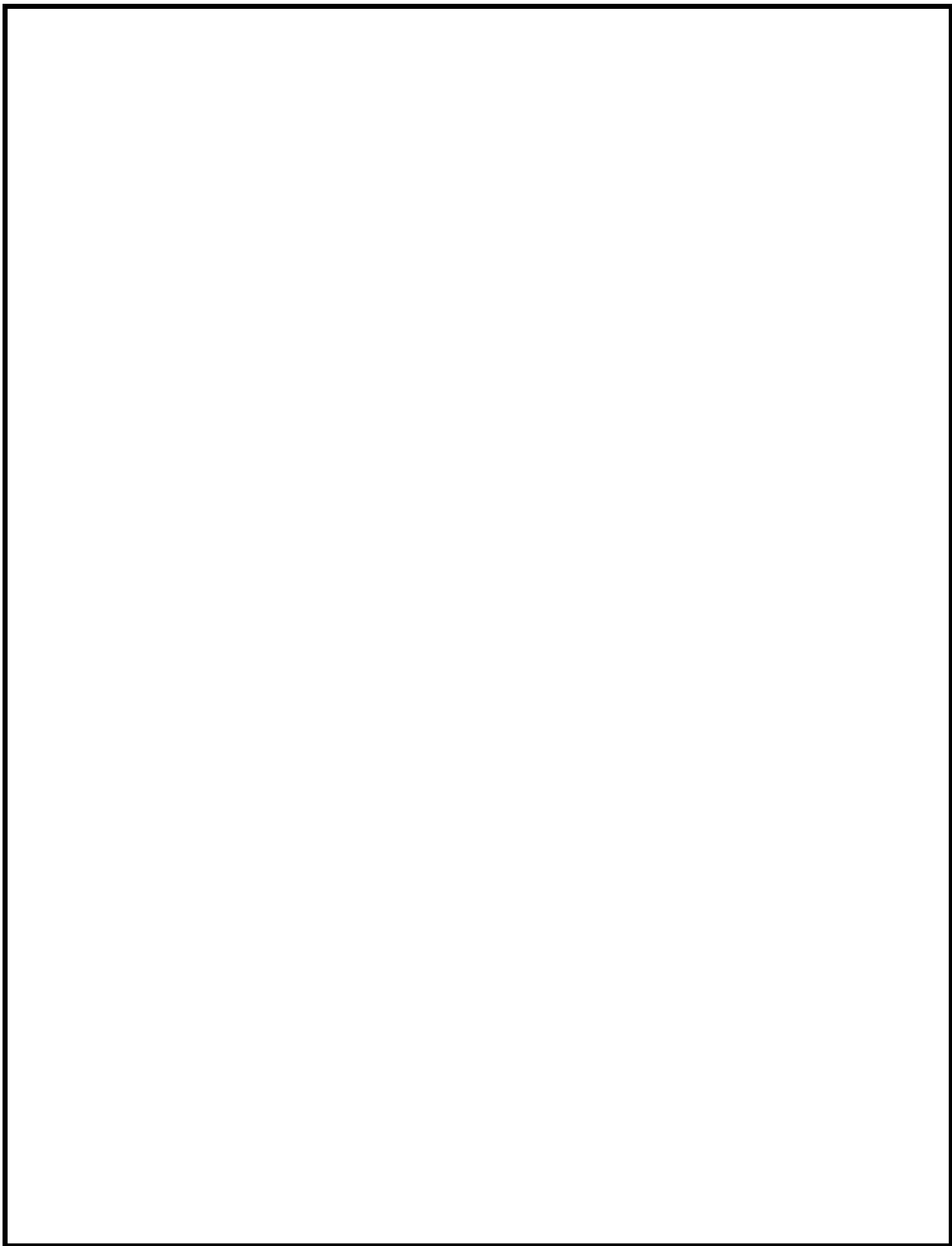
ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:
WD6BOR@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon
ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Carmichael, CA 95610**

**NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, AT 7:30 P.M. AT MCDOUGAL
HALL, SDC
CU THERE!**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2004 Membership Dues: \$10/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to:

VOMARC